

1925

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To the Chairman and Members of Bredwardine Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your information my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1925, together with a general survey of the five previous years.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Bredwardine Rural District lies in the Western Corner of Herefordshire; the River Wye and its tributary the Dulas Brook form a natural boundary separating this part of the County of Hereford from the Principality of Wales. The Wye at this part of its course is 220 feet above sea level; the surface of the district adjacent to the river is flat, but rises with undulating hills towards the foot of the Black Mountains to a height of 1,200 feet. The district is well watered. Agriculture is the main industry. The population is evenly distributed over its five parishes, each parish having its own little village. Cusop is mainly residential, and is healthily situated some 200 feet above the river bed.

The health of the district is good.

Area, comprises 17,988 acres.

Population 1921 census, 1,940.

Estimated population for 1925, 1,996.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921—486.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921—504.

Rateable Value, £22,234

Sum represented by a penny rate, £53 2s. 9d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	Male	Female	Birth-rate
Births {	Legitimate - -	37	17	20	} 20.04 per 1,000 estimated population.
	Illegitimate - -	3	2	1	
Deaths - -		25	11	14	

Death-rate, 12.5 per 1,000 estimated population.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth, sepsis, nil; other causes, nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age, legitimate, 4; illegitimate, 0.

Infantile death-rate is 100 per 1000 births.

Chief causes of Deaths: Cancer, 3; Influenza, 2; Heart Disease, 4; Pneumonia, 1.

POOR LAW RELIEF.

No exceptional increase in the amount of Poor Law Relief.

During the five years under review there has been no special cause of sickness or invalidity.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council—

1. *Tuberculosis.* The County Council Sanatorium at Nieuport is available for cases of Tuberculosis recommended for admission by the Tuberculosis Officer.

2. *Maternity.* A maternity ward with two beds is provided at the Hay Union Poor Law Hospital and is available for the district.

3. *Children.* No hospital provision is made by the Local Authority or the County Council.

4. *Fever.* Arrangements exist with the Hay Isolation Hospital Authorities for the admission of cases to their Isolation Hospital should the necessity arise.

5. *Smallpox.* An extension of the Hay Isolation Hospital has been made by the Joint Councils of the Hay Union in the form of a separate building containing two wards, which could be used for the isolation of cases of Smallpox, should occasion arise.

6. *Other.* A Poor Law Infirmary and Hospital under control of the Board of Guardians exists at Hay and is available for Poor Law cases in the district which are unsuitable for admission to a General Hospital.

The General Hospital at Hereford is available for the general needs of the district.

Ambulance Facilities. (a) For infectious cases a horse-drawn closed conveyance is kept at the Hay Isolation Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases a motor ambulance is available in Hereford, under arrangements made by the British Red Cross Association. Application for its use should be made to Messrs. Connelly & Sons. Telephone No. 1039 Hereford.

There are no Clinics or Treatment Centres in the district.



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Public Health Officers of the Local Authority are your Medical Officer of Health, a part-time Officer to whose salary a contribution is made by exchequer grant; your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Williams, a part-time officer, a contribution to whose salary is made by exchequer grant.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) *General.* The Hay and Cusop Nursing Association provide two nurses, one of whom is a qualified maternity nurse, she also combines with her other duties that of school nurse, her salary is subsidised by the County Council. Both these nurses are available for the Parish of Cusop.

The Whitney and Clifford Nursing Association maintain a qualified maternity nurse, who also acts as district nurse for general cases of sickness. She combines with these duties that of school nurse. Her salary is subsidised by the County Council.

A qualified maternity nurse is available for the Parish of Bredwardine.

No arrangements exist for a qualified maternity nurse to attend cases in the Parish of Dorstone, nor is there any arrangement for general district nursing in the parish. The registered nurse who lately was employed by the local nursing association still resides and practices there. There is urgent need for arrangements to be made for a qualified nurse to undertake work in this district.

With this one exception no unqualified midwives practice in the district.

One qualified maternity nurse residing at Peterchurch, practices in the Dorstone district.

(b) *Infectious Cases.* No arrangements exist in regard to the nursing of such cases,

Chemical Work. Bacteriological work and water analyses have been carried out during the year by the Hereford City and County Laboratory.

Legislation in force. No adoptive acts, byelaws, or local regulations, are in force in this district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE AREA.

Water. The water supply of the district is in general sufficient in quantity and of good quality. There are several combined supplies but the chief sources are springs and wells.

Cusop in most parts gets its water from Llangwathan in common with the Hay Town supply. It is laid on to most houses from this and one or two other springs, and is satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Clifford. Upland spring water collected in three reservoirs of cement and brick, covered with zinc, the upkeep of which has been taken over by your Council, brings water within easy reach by means of stand-pipes, to practically every cottage in Clifford village. In some cases the water is laid on to the houses themselves.

Whitney. There is a good private storage at the Court. Farm-houses mostly have their water supply laid on from adjacent springs or have deep wells close by.

Dorstone. Water might with advantage be laid on to the cottages in Chapel Lane, whose occupiers now have to convey it some distance from a stand-by pipe. Farm-houses mostly have their water laid on from a spring or obtain it from adjacent wells.

Bredwardine. The supply is satisfactory, and is laid on from springs to most of the larger houses and some of the cottages,

Peny-park Schools. The water supply, owing to complaint, was analysed, and found not to be wholly satisfactory. Subsequently it was analysed again after being pumped out and after heavy rain. The later analysis proved more satisfactory, and the water was pronounced fit for drinking purposes.

Rivers and Streams. Pollution of the Dulas Brook from sewerage, emptying direct into it from the Bredwardine side, has to a large extent been remedied. Direct pollution of the River Wye from the Bredwardine district by sewerage entering directly into it, is negligible.

Several cases of the objectionable practice of pit-prives being built over a stream and emptying directly into it have come to my notice, and have been remedied.

Drainage and Sewerage. There is no combined system of drainage in any part of the district. The system in vogue in the residential and larger houses where water closets are in use, is a cess-pit, with overflow on to the land; in a few instances an an-aerobic filter intervenes.

The great majority of Cottages and Farm-houses are provided with—1. Pit privies. 2. Pail and earth closets. Several cases where these have been found dilapidated and insanitary have been dealt with. The chief defects of the pit-privy are :—

- (1). That they are often inaccessible.
- (2). That no provision is made for regular emptying and cleaning.
- (3). That they are constructed in such manner that surface water is allowed to flow into them, and often they discharge their contents in roadside and other ditches. The pail dry earth system has replaced these old pit-privies in many instances.

With the increase of houses in Cusop I think your Council should seriously consider the advisability



of adopting a combined sewerage system, which will do away with the increasing number of cess-pits, which in course of time are bound to become a nuisance.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

(b) Notices served—Statutory, 2; Informal, 12.

Nuisances have been abated in all cases of informal notices.

HOUSING.

(1) General Housing Conditions are satisfactory. The structural conditions of the houses is above the average of the country generally.

No measures are in contemplation to increase house accommodation.

II. *Overcrowding.* No cases of overcrowding have been reported or have come to my notice.

i. (a) General standard of housing in the area is good.

(c) In the few cases of unfitness which exist, lack of proper management by owners account for the defects.

3. No special difficulties are encountered.

4. Water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal, is satisfactory.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas.* There are none.

V. (1) There are no existing Housing Byelaws.

(2) In my opinion Model Building Byelaws should be adopted by the Council.

VI. No other general action has been taken.

I. Number of New Houses erected during the year :

Unfit Dwelling Houses—

2. Remedy of Defects without serving of Formal Notice—

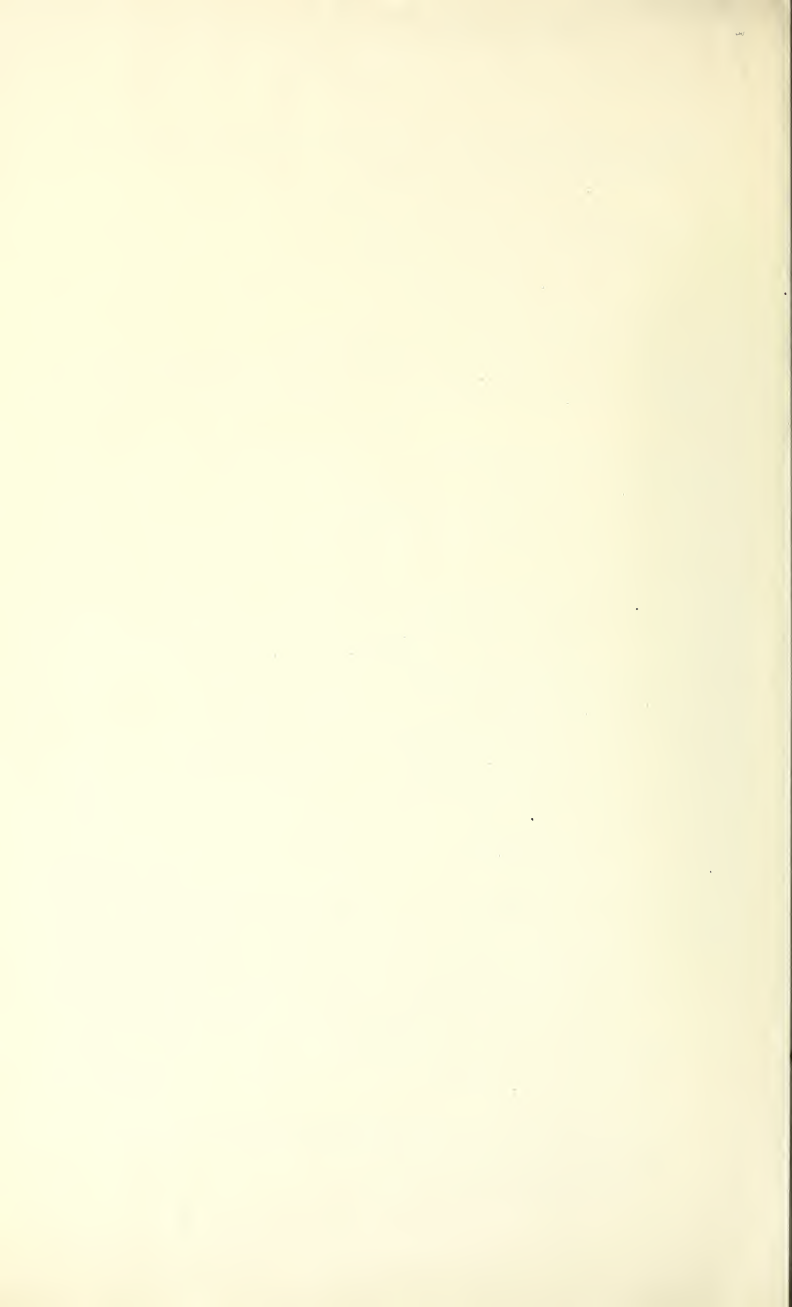
3. Action under Statutory Powers—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs

(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit :

(a) by Owners	0
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(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	0
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- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close 0

B Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0
- (2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied :
- (a) by Owners 0
- (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners 0

C Proceedings under Section 17 & 18 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909—

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... 0
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 0
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having being rendered fit 0
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 0
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) *Milk Supply.* Seven wholesale and retail suppliers of milk are registered in the district. Milk dairies and cow-sheds have been inspected and found clean and sanitary.

- (b) *Meat.* Slaughter-houses are regularly inspected, are found clean and satisfactory.

Meat is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector before and after slaughter. No Tuberculosis meat has been found.

There are no public slaughter-houses.

Private slaughter houses—

	1920	January, 1925	December, 1925.
Registered	0	2	2
Licensed ...	0	2	2

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Since 1920 the district has been remarkably free from Infectious, notifiable disease.

In January, 1921, four cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in Bredwardine, and in February, of the same year, two cases were notified in Cusop.

In April, 1925, a number of cases of Tonsillitis occurred in Bredwardine, six of which were found by Bacteriological Examination to be Diptheritic. I made enquiry into these cases and gave a special report to your Council and to the Ministry of Health. Steps were taken to remedy the insanitary condition of a pit-privy and refuse dump, also the defective condition of School House drain and cess-pit.

One case of Puerperal Fever was notified in 1921.

The following cases of Pneumonia were notified :—

1920	...	1	1923	...	3
1921	...	1	1924	...	1
1922	...	3	1925	...	0
		Total	...	9	

Two of the cases of Scarlet Fever were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

1925.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Diphtheria	6	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

One case of Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) was reported during 1925. Age 19. Male. This case was subsequently treated at Nieuport Sanatorium.

There were no deaths recorded as being due to Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under P.H.A., 1925, section 62.



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Your Council has delegated its powers under the Midwives' Act, 1902 and 1918, to the County Council.

No cases of Puerperal Fever or Ophthalmia Neonatorium were notified during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS E. HINCKS,
M.O.H.

